

Remarks

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action of the Examiner with a notification date of June 21, 2011. Claims 29, 39, and 40 are amended and claims 36-37 are cancelled. No new matter is presented. Currently, claims 29, 31-34, 39-45, 47-56, and 58-70 remain pending in the Application. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 47-56 and 58-70 are indicated as allowable. Applicants also acknowledge that claims 37, 39 and 40 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With regard to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, while Applicants believe that the claims are allowable, Applicants do not acquiesce that patentability resides in each feature, or a single feature, as exactly stated by the Examiner, or as exactly as expressed in the claims, nor that each feature is required for patentability. Applicants believe that there are additional reasons that the claims can be distinguished from the prior art, other than the reasons stated by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29, 31-34, 36 and 41-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rosenfield et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0091878) in view of Dietz (U.S. Patent No. 3 650 840).

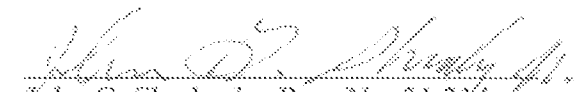
Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, and in the interest of furthering prosecution, claim 29 has been amended to include the features of claim 37, which is indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants believe claim 29 to now be in condition for allowance. For at least the same and other reasons, claims 31-34, 39, and 41-45, which depend from claim 29 and include significant additional distinguishing features, are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 359-9348.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: September 21, 2011


John G. Shudy, Jr., Reg. No. 31,214
SEAGER, TUFTE, & WICKHEM, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Telephone: (612) 677-9050
Facsimile: (612) 359-9349